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MERVYN'S CLOSES STORE LOCATED IN LANCASTER - Daily News of Los Angeles (CA) - September 26, 1998 - page AV1
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Mervyn's has closed its Lancaster store, calling it one of 10 underperforming stores in the chain, a company spokeswoman said Friday.

The 18-year-old store was closed Thursday, and its 92 employees have been offered transfers, said spokeswoman Janet Reilly.

``It's a very sad day. It's a sad day for the employees, and it is a sad day for the community,'' Reilly said.

The company announced in January that it intended to close or sell 10 underperforming stores and focus that revenue onto other stores. The company does intend to continue to operate its store at the Antelope Valley Mall in Palmdale.

``They closed it abruptly,'' said Lancaster Mayor Frank Roberts. ``We were really annoyed with that. We thought it should have stayed open through Christmas.''

Mervyn's sold the building located in the Antelope Valley Center shopping center on 15th Street West to Antelope Valley Mervyn's Building Partners, a retail developer.

``We have plans to vigorously market it to find one or more tenants to replace Mervyn's and hopefully generate more traffic,'' said Stuart Schneider, a general partner.

The closures leave Dayton Hudson with about 275 Mervyn's stores. The bulk of these are in California, which has been a promising market for the chain.

Dayton Hudson also operates the Target discount chain, which accounts for much of its profit, and department stores including Hudson's, Dayton's and Marshall Fields.

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